



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Emergency Medical Services Holds Ongoing Disaster Preparedness Training

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Local area emergency medical service providers, nurses and physicians participated this week in a disaster preparedness program hosted by the New Bedford Emergency Medical Services and funded by a United States Department of Homeland Security Disaster Preparedness Program grant. The course, entitled “EMS Operations & Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction” ran from Sept. 25, 2007 through Sept. 27, 2007 and was designed to increase preparedness and response capability for the local community during a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or a Chemical, Biological, and Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE). Course material included an all hazards approach, which prepared participants to respond to accidental or intentional events.

“An all hazards approach allows public safety responders to adapt standard operating procedures to specific incidents. This is one example of the ongoing training that New Bedford’s first responders regularly participate in, which is designed to encourage coordinated problem solving and decision making in advance of an actual incident,” said Mayor Scott W. Lang.

Emergency response and rescue officials from Texas A&M University administered the training course to more than 20 participants and reviewed essential emergency response skills like proper detection and monitoring, triage, mass decontamination, treatment, stabilization, self-protection and cross-contamination prevention.

Captain Richard Torrey, Paramedic Training Officer for the City of New Bedford's Emergency Medical Services said, “The potential for an incident like this is very real and it is important to be prepared. This training was an opportunity for area responders to review existing procedures and update themselves with new ones. Because we have prepared in advance to respond to these types of emergencies, we have mitigated

many potential risks we would face as responders in a real incident, allowing us to better protect and serve the public.”

In addition, members of the New Bedford emergency response communities and the surrounding jurisdictional EMS, area Fire Departments, Emergency Management, healthcare staff and volunteer departments participated in the training.

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